
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #8

Sitka... An aerial survey was conducted today covering Sitka Sound from Eastern Channel to Hayward Strait. Weather during today's flight was poor with south winds at 20–25 knots and overcast skies with snow squalls. No herring spawn was observed on today's flight. The highest concentration of herring predators was observed northwest of Bieli Rock. Numerous whales were observed in deeper waters northwest of Bieli Rock to Guide Island. Large groups of sea lions were seen off Inner Point, Bieli Rock, and north Crow Island. The vessel survey conducted by the *R/V Kestrel* showed a large biomass of herring in the deeper waters northwest of Bieli Rock and several smaller schools northeast of Middle Island and east of the Siginaka Islands. While the fish tended to remain deep, several moderately sized schools broke off and were located in shallower water near Guide Island before returning to deeper waters. Several test fishing vessels were available for today, however no samples were taken.

The Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery is on 2-hour notice.

The next Fishery Update can be expected on Wednesday, March 21, after the next scheduled aerial survey.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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